

Recap of the July 17, 2006, NW-AIRQUEST Conference Call (with attachments discussed on call)

On the call:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Rob and Rob)
- Puget Sound Clean Air (Mike)
- Washington State University (Joe)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Svetlana)
- Washington Department of Ecology (Clint and Sally)
- Environment Canada (Peter)
- National Park Service (Elizabeth)
- U.S. Forest Service (Janice)
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Rick, Bruce, and Chris)

■ Conference Call Agenda Items:

Annual Meeting -

- To be held in Olympia, Washington (Nov/Dec)
- Clint is looking at the weeks of November 14-16 and December 5-7 for availability of meeting rooms at Ecology
- November 6-7 was bad because it includes Monday travel, conflicts with the National Monitoring Conference, and butts up to the PNWIS being held 8-10
- On the annual meeting agenda - election of new NW-AIRQUEST chairperson, working group breakout sessions, and more to come

WSU / NASA ROSES / Educational Outreach Grant -

- Joe Vaughn went through the portion of his PowerPoint slides he had developed for the Air Directors on NASA ROSES
- The slides describe the who and why of each of the associated payers in the proposed Comprehensive Regional Air-Quality Decision Support System for the Pacific Northwest (see attached slides and PDF)
- It was discussed that the slides might be too technical for the Air Directors -- *please flag anything too technical in the slides and send them to Joe for his review and update*
- The associated \$15,000 educational grant was discussed a bit more as well -- the hope is to use this grant for a student hire at the Palouse Discovery Science Center -- to turn NW-AIRQUEST products into teachable units and to use this to better shape our products and work
- It was then discussed that we have "policy-relevant" areas of research (satellite products) conducted and outcomes desired through project and grant to show Air Directors value of this proposal and work
- Joe will add a few slides to his presentation that touch on this last discussion point as related to the educational grant and proposed project

Status of Level of Accuracy Needed for NW-AIRQUEST Products -

- A part of our NW-AIRQUEST funding is provided via the Air Directors for specific products we generate, so a need, measures for success, and an accuracy level for these products is desired to ensure funding is continued and NW-AIRQUEST goals are met and understood
- Mike Gilroy provided a list of bulleted discussion points on our needed level of accuracy for the products. The list included a matrix or template of bins we would like to fill as a group for our different goals and requirements -- *please review the attached document and assist Mike Gilroy, Bruce Louks, and Clint Bowman on completion of the bins*
- GOAL: We must find value in this process and our products -- create an acceptable amount of error within a product that will allow one to successfully do one's job
- Some questions were raised here at Idaho DEQ after the conference call ended -- Who are the customers of our products besides us? Who uses MM5/AIRPACT/ClearSkies? Not just us, so if we knew by looking at daily or monthly Web hits, maybe we could survey those users to see what their expectations of accuracy are in these NW-AIRQUEST funded and produced products

Update of FY2006 Region 10 Collaborative Projects Funds -

- Bruce Louks and Mike Gilroy have gone through the process for the \$300,000 that was on the table
- The money was apportioned to needs as follows: \$190,000 to the University of Washington, and \$110,000 to Washington State University
- The goal was to align everything more toward group needs

Further Working Group Updates -

- A short discussion on the working groups and getting them reinvigorated was tabled for a survey of sorts to be sent to all NW-AIRQUEST members.
- *Please answer the following and send your responses to*

Christopher.Ramsdell@deq.idaho.gov:

1) Some NW-AIRQUEST members take part in multiple work groups, so simply waiting until the break-out sessions at the annual NW-AIRQUEST meeting to get the groups started up again will leave some having to decide what session to attend rather than being able to take part in multiple groups like conference calls allow. Do you think we should begin the work group conference calls again immediately or wait until the annual meeting to rededicate ourselves to the work groups?

2) Should our work groups be re-tooled into project-based groups (i.e., mercury deposition), or remain as they are in topic-based groups (i.e., data sharing, monitoring, modeling, etc.)?

3) Would you rather see a couple topic-based work groups like data sharing continue unchanged and have the project-based work groups be developed when a specific need arises?

Open Forum -

- Mike Gilroy discussed how MM5 was on the money 96-hours out with the big stagnation event we had. He added how impressed with recovery of product production after flooding in one of the buildings where the work is done.

Next Call -

- Tentatively scheduled for the week of August 28 - September 1
- Please send in your agenda items (Christopher.Ramsdell@deq.idaho.gov)